

Columbia River Fire & Rescue  
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
58611 McNulty Way, St. Helens OR 97051  
And Virtual via GoTo Meeting  
July 12, 2022, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting: After due and legal notice the Regular Board meeting of the Columbia River Fire & Rescue Board of Directors was called to order by President Feige at 7:00 pm.

Present: Hans Feige, Mark Kreutzer, Kelly Niles, Gary Hudson

Absent: Kim McLane

Others: Chief Medina, DC Holsey, DC Mendola, DC Smythe, Jennifer Motherway, BC Gorsuch, Kate Lehner, FM Pederson, Tim Hennigan, Eric Wonderly, Chris Culligan, Robert Conrath, Aaron Schrotzberger, David Parshall, Qantu Curio, Steven Raichel, Lisa Strolis, Aiden Wadley, Tyler Miller

Via Teams Meeting: James Pulito, Matt Chandler, Victor Haney, Ron Cordell, Dan Marting  
Phone In: Rick Fletcher

Flag Salute: President Feige led the flag salute

Changes to the agenda: One item to new business added and one item to old business added.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on June 14, 2022. Financial statement and checks to approve. VP Niles moved to approve. Secretary Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was a brief discussion regarding the financial statement and line items for maintenance and utilities.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Medina spoke of Chief Smythe receiving the Ralph Painter award at Rainier Days. Jennifer Motherway further elaborated in the participation of CRFR at Rainier Days and winning an award for best fire apparatus. Chief Medina discussed the new Grapevine memo system and how it will open the lines of communication with our department. Chief Medina went on to update on the hiring process and the interviews scheduled with candidates. He went on to discuss the Civil Service board members retirement and advertising in media outlets for the open positions. Chief Smythe gave a briefing on the upcoming fire season and the Community Paramedic acquiring donated AC units from the restore to provide to the elderly. Chief Smythe discussed upcoming events in Columbia County including the Seattle to Portland bike race. He discussed the volunteer firefighters' drills performed Monday evenings prepping for wild land fire activities on the 7-acre property. Chief Medina discussed the hiring of a new Division Chief of Finance and his July 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Chief Jimmy Sanchez completed the resolution and LB50 which he will submit to the county on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Chief Holsey briefed everyone on the ASA agreement and that there had been zero movement even after he submitted inquiries. He discussed capital equipment loss from the accident and where things are at in the reimbursement process. Chief Holsey discussed the delays in the supply chain currently. Chief Medina discussed the meeting that Chief Holsey, Chief Smythe, and himself attending in Longview, Washington pertaining to the Longview Bridge Project and the impacts it will have on our organization. Director Hudson asked FM Pederson about driveway inspections and training staff to assist with that duty. Director Hudson also inquired on the status of the administrative building upgrade and Chief Medina spoke of the issues with the permitting process. Director Hudson spoke of the Fairgrounds

Station and length of lease. President Feige discussed the EMS revenue reporting and different aspects of the reporting that need further clarification.

Old Business: Chief Medina presented the Columbia River Fire & Rescue resolution 2021-22-11 to be approved and signed by the board. VP Niles made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2022-23, Director Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, zero opposed.

VP Niles made a motion to keep the alignment of the board members the same. Director Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was discussion regarding the compensation to the board members for attending the meetings, setting the meeting dates/times, reviewing the rules for realignment, and record keeping.

New Business: Chief Medina spoke of the appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Sanchez. President Feige discussed a potential operational levy for CRFR and the need for more revenue. There was further discussion surrounding the volume of calls, hiring more personnel, building more fire stations, purchasing additional property for more fire stations, and upgrading current stations. President Feige discussed creating an outline for the board packet regarding a levy. VP Niles expressed the need to keep up on the information reporting on social media so the public will understand why the district needs the funds.

Chief Medina spoke of MERP (Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan) and how it had been thought to be included in the insurance expenditures line item of the budget. Upon further review it is an unbudgeted expenditure. President Feige inquired about the contract origination and status. Chief Medina discussed the last known contract was from 2017 and was supposed to be renewed and approved by the board on an annual basis. President Feige discussed the need for further clarification by reviewing past board meeting minutes pertaining to MERP and contacting WHA Insurance to obtain additional contracts.

Chief Medina spoke of the eligibly list for new medical units and the timeline being out over 24 months. He asked the board for approval to go on the wait list at no cost for a new medical unit. VP Niles made a motion to approve CRFR going on the list for a new medical unit and Director Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

#### Board Comments:

Director Kreutzer apologized for not being able to make it to the budget meeting. Director Kreutzer spoke of the SDAO seminar that is upcoming and encouraged the Fire Chiefs to attend.

VP Niles commented that it was great to see all the Firefighters and EMTs in attendance at the board meeting.

Secretary Hudson congratulated Chief Smythe and thanked Mrs. Motherway. He appreciated the new Grapevine notice that is circulating.

Closed Executive Session: Labor Negotiations ORS 192.660(2)(d); Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees ORS 192.660(2)(i)

Adjourn: 9:36pm